once and twice within a predetermined unit time.

The status information to be printed for confirmation includes the information on the toner that decreases gradually as the printing operation goes on and the information on the mounted memory that will not decrease once the power is turned on. For this reason, the invention claimed in Claim 13 is the printer defined in any one of Claims 8 - 12, in which the status information acquisition unit on the printer's side acquires fixed status information only when the printer is booted, and this unit acquires sequentially updated status information when the status is updated.

In the invention claimed in Claim 13, the status information is not acquired uniformly. Although the fixed status information is acquired only when the printer is booted, the status information that may be successively updated is acquired every time the status is updated. Thus, the processing burden that acquires the status information is reduced.

When the cost of the printer is intended to be low, the processing capability of the microcomputer etc. mounted in the printer is made small. Therefore, the reduction of processing burdens is necessary to prevent the printing processing primarily expected from being affected.

Even if the present invention consists of software and hardware in the medium on which the status information printing

program is recorded and the printer, the idea of the invention makes no difference. Part of the invention may be stored in a record medium and read whenever necessary. The invention is realized in the program itself, and applied to any device containing the program and to the program itself.

Thus, the tangible host computer realizes the method of generating the printing data based on the status information data based on the output from the printer. In this sense, it is understandable that the invention can also be applied as such a tangible apparatus containing a host computer. In other words, the invention is effective also as a tangible apparatus controlled by a host computer. The invention may be realized in the apparatus itself, or in equipment containing the apparatus and with another method. The idea of the invention is not limited to these, but may be modified in various ways whenever necessary.

When processing advances according to the control, the invention substantially exists in the procedure. It is therefore easy to understand that the invention can be applied also as a method. In other words, the invention is not limited necessarily to a tangible medium or the like, but is also effective as a method. The invention is also effective as the status information printing system consisting of the printer and the host computer, which perform the predetermined communication so that the status information can be printed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig.1 shows a schematic hardware diagram of a system consisting of a printer for status printing and a host computer.

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram showing the present invention realized as a printer driver.

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of the main composition of a printer embodying the invention.

Fig. 4 shows the flow of the printing data file generation processing and the outline of the printing images.

Fig. 5 is a flowchart of the main processing of the status information printing of the printer.

Fig. 6 is a flowchart of the status information acquisition processing on the printer's side.

Fig. 7 is a flowchart of the status information output processing of the printer.

Fig. 8 is a flowchart of the print processing.

Fig. 9 is a flowchart of the main processing performed by the printer driver when status information is printed.

Fig. 10 is a flowchart of the status information acquisition processing on the host side of the printer driver.

Fig. 11 is a flowchart of the printing data generation processing of the printer driver.

Fig. 12 is a flowchart of the printing data output